decision about the winding up of cells identified as superflous is to be taken by the concerned Ministry/ Department.

Pilcom I.T. Evasion issue

3261. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Pilcom IT evasion issue catches CAG eye, raps Central Board of Direct taxes for rescuing Co." appearing in the 'Economic Times' New Delhi dated October 13, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government in regard thereto; and

(d) the steps taken so far to verify whether tax has been deducted at source and remitted to the exchequer and payments made on various contracts entered into by Pak-India Lanka Joint Management Committee (PILCOM) and others and also to review the double taxation avoidance agreement (DTAA) as existing at present?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. In the light of the clarifications issued by Central Board of Direct Taxes, the field authorities have been advised to take appropriate steps on issues related to tax.

As regards review of the existing double Taxation Avoidance Agreements, there is no proposal under consideration for review with reference to this particular issue.

Bank Accounts of Tata Group Companies

3262. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve bank of India has decided to launch investigations into the bank accounts of TATA Sons and other top Tata group Companies following the evidence gathered by the Bank that these corporates had used huge amounts of banks' funds to shore up their cross holdings in one another in violation of the Bank's rules;

(b) the major investments made by Tata Group Companies;

(c) the *modus operandi* followed by the TATA Group and its Companies in this behalf; and

(d) the outcome of the investigations and the follow-up action being taken by the R.B.I.?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indian Trade Missions Abroad

3263. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up separate Indian Trade Missions abroad with a view to have close trade relations with U.S.A., Germany, Japan, U.K., France, China and Russia and to play more aggressive economic diplomacy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the other measures proposed to be taken by the Government to increase exports, earn more foreign exchange to repay huge foreign loans and speed up anti-dumping investigations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). No such proposal is under consideration. Commercial Wings attached to the Indian Missions in these countries are handing economic, commercial and trade matters.

Dereservation of Ice Cream and Bakery Items from SSI

3264. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal for dereservation of ice-cream and bakery items from the small-scale sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to allow multinationals to enter into the field of these two items;

(c) whether the Government also propose to raise the investment limit for these items in the small-scale sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) its effect on the small-scale sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e). The Government have received proposals for de-reservation of certain food items like ice cream, bread and biscuits. No decision has been taken either to de-reserve these items or to raise the investment limit for these items in the small scale sector. As per the present policy, no medium or large scale undertaking including multinationals is permitted to manufacture reserved items except under 75% export obligation. Govt. are, however, awaiting the recommendations of he Expert Committee headed by Mr. Abid Hussain on all aspects of SSI Sector.

Decline in Production of Cement

3265. SHRI RAM SHAKAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY BE pleased to state :

(a) the details alongwith the number of factories manufacturing cement in the country Statewise;